

TB-0346

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING TOOL

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Effective Date: September 1, 2004
Section/Group: WAN Security
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Effective September 1, 2004 a new Internet content filtering product will be put into production. ITS has done a formal bid and evaluation of Internet content filtering products and has selected a caching appliance from BlueCoat that runs the SmartFilter content filtering product. The new filtering product will be implemented during the week of September 1, 2004. Customers should not notice any significant difference in their Web surfing. A new customized block page will be implemented for those times when a user attempts to view a filtered page. Additional formal policies and procedures are being established in ITS to support the Web content filtering product.

In order to comply with the current *State Policy for Filtering Inappropriate Web Sites* (1999) and the new *Acceptable Use Rule* (365-7), the following categories will be blocked:

Anonymizers

A Web site that enables anonymous Web browsing through an intermediary and allow users access to any Web page, and bypasses blocking software

Anonymizing Utilities

Web page language translators and caching utilities that might be used as anonymizers, without the express purpose of bypassing filtering software.

Criminal Skills

Web pages that either provide instructions for, or identify, methods to promote, encourage, or provide the skills to commit illegal or criminal activities.

Extreme

Web sites at the outer limits of being gory, perverse, or horrific in nature.



Gambling

Web sites offering online casino games, gaming information, bookmaker odds, betting pools, lottery pages, and bingo.

Hacking

Web sites that distribute information and hacking tools (root kits, kiddy scripts, etc.) that help individuals gain unauthorized access to computer systems.

Hate Speech

Web sites dedicated to any sort of information that would encourage the oppression of a specific group of individuals.

Malicious Sites

Web sites that deploy code designed specifically to hijack computer settings or activity.

Pornography

Web sites that contain materials intended to be sexually arousing or erotic. This includes fetish pages, animation, cartoons, stories, and child pornography.

Tasteless/Gross

Web sites containing tasteless humor, excretory functions (vomiting, urinating, or defecating), graphic medical or accident scene photos (containing blood or wounds), and some extreme forms of body modification (cutting, branding, or genital piercing).

Violence

Web sites that include images and text that portray, describe, or advocate physical assaults against humans, animals, or institutions.

Additional categories will be added over the next three months to fully implement current policy and enhance the overall security of the State's Wide Area Network. The following categories are listed in the Policy for Filtering Inappropriate Web Sites (1999) and will be added during the next 60 days:

Alcohol

Web sites that sell, promote, or advocate the use of alcoholic beverages, including beer, wine, and hard liquors.

Tobacco

Web sites that sell, promote, or advocate the use of tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, and pipe and chewing tobacco.



Requests for exemption from content filtering can be made by obtaining the written approval of the Agency Department Director and submitting it in a trouble ticket with the ITS Help Desk and giving a business reason why you need access to this site or category.

The State of Utah uses Secure Computing's SmartFilter product to determine categories and Web site assignments to categories for filtering purposes. Sites are blocked when they are included in a SmartFilter category and ITS blocks that category. For non-work related sites that are blocked, the employee must take the initiative to have SmartFilter review the site and move it to a new category. To request a change, go to the SmartFilter site at <http://smartfilterwhere.com> and complete the request review form. The State receives nightly updates of the SmartFilter list.

Questions and concerns about Web content filtering can be sent to the project team at webfiltering@utah.gov or direct to the State of Utah Chief Information Office (CIO) c/o Val Oveson valoveson@utah.gov.

